

GREAT FINBOROUGH NEWSLETTER

Editor: M.J.Baker, 11 Kersey Close, Stowmarket, IP14 2BG Tel: Stow 76457

No.49 December, 1978 HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL READERS

THE NEW NEWSLETTER Here is the new Newsletter. In line with the proposals in the October editorial, Council has decided to issue a slimmer version in order to get value for money while retaining a vehicle for news. An information sheet containing material shown previously on the inside cover will be published twice a year.

PARISH COUNCIL (Meeting 24/11/78) The Council, while acknowledging that changes to the parish boundary are desirable for convenient local government, finds that other factors such as history, the wishes of inhabitants and neighbours and parish council finance all outweigh the need for change --- The parish rate will be kept at 3.4p in the f next year. No provision was made for further improvement grants for the Pettward Hall --- Estimates for the village sign to be produced in wood proved too expensive so that local metal craftsmen are to be invited to submit tenders --- Plans to use the proposed extension to the School playing field as a children's play area were given the go-ahead in principle --- The animal-waste ferrying and storage business at Dairy Farm was to cease on 2/12/78 --- Council heard of changes in rural policing which would mean a regular presence in the village of a police officer on foot.

SCHOOL TRANSPORT The Council followed up a complaint about illegal use of the school bus and received the following reply from the County Education Officer: "After careful measurement by my colleagues of the distances from the school to the homes of certain pupils, it has been established that a number of these distances are under the 3 mile minimum requirement for the provision of transport, and, therefore, the Authority has no responsibility for the conveyance of those pupils. They will not, therefore, be permitted to travel on the coach in future. The loadings on this bus will now be 59 pupils (48 Combs Middle School, 8 Stowmarket High School and three on medical grounds). As the bus contracted for this particular route is a 41 seater, and as the pupils may sit 3 to 2 adult seats, the above number is within the permitted legal maximum. The action taken, therefore, should resolve the problem you raised, but if there is further query, I shall be pleased to investigate".

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Our Remembrance Day Parade at Rattlesden was an historic occasion with 35 members on parade; the Salvation Army Band from Stowmarket led us as usual and Lt.Col.Ironside-Wood took the salute after the service. Canon A.H.Johnson preached.

The Annual Dinner on 18th November saw 67 members and guests in the Pettward Hall. A very good dinner was provided by Mrs.Wright and her helpers and the Stowmarket Operatic & Dramatic Society entertained us afterwards. During the Dinner Poppy Appeal Brooches and Certificates were awarded to Mrs.Wake (Gt.Finborough), Mrs.Jenkins and Mrs.D.Smith (Onehouse), Mrs.Flack (Rattlesden) and Mrs.Fosker (Buxhall). Two other ladies were unable to be there to receive their awards - Mrs.Tester (Onehouse) and Mrs.Norman (Rattlesden).

Mr.John Miles of Gt.Finborough has received the County Certificate of Appreciation for tending the Finborough War Memorial for the past 20 years. He has had to give up this service for personal reasons and we would be glad to hear of anyone who would like to take it on - tending the rose garden, keeping the lawn in trim shape and the memorial clean. (Hugh Wake, Hon.Sec.)

ST. ANDREWS CHURCH Services for December and January:

Sunday 17th Dec 11 am Carol Service
Sunday 24th Dec (Christmas Eve) 11 am MP at Onehouse, 6.30 pm
Carol Service at Harleston, 11.30 pm HC at
Finborough (communicant members of all churches
welcome)
Monday 25th Dec (Christmas Day) 9 am HC at Harleston
10 am at Onehouse) Family Service followed
11 am at Finborough) by Holy Communion
Tues 26th &
Weds 27th Dec Private Communion for those unable to come to Church
Sunday 31st Dec 11 am Family Service, 7 pm Evening Prayer and
Communion for the New Year
Sunday 7th Jan 11 am Morning Prayer
Sunday 14th Jan 9 am Holy Communion

The Wine and Cheese Party on 1st December realised a clear profit of about £163 for Church Funds which will help us to pay our Church taxes. About 100 tickets were sold and despite a cold night we had an enjoyable party. Prizewinners for the Grand Draw are listed in the Post Office window. Thank you to all who worked hard to make it a success. (H.Wake, Vicar)

PRIMARY SCHOOL A poem for Christmas by Andrew Steel, aged 6 years:

I am Gaspar with frankincense for the King
I travelled by night
To lose that star so bright
I travelled by camel train
And I hope for a drop of rain
I go on in vain
In my camel train
Till at last I came to Bethlehem
Where the little Lord lay
In the hay.
My joy overpoured
That I had found the little Lord.
My gift was frankincense
That I wished was fur
To keep the baby warm
Till dawn
When the little Lord shall wake.

LOCAL HISTORY At the moment I am in contact with the Ordnance Survey Office at Southampton with a view to obtaining aerial photos of our parish. These photographs are most interesting and tell us a lot about the past. They show up old hedgerows, boundaries, demolished buildings, buried walls and roads and will, I think, be worth adding to the archives of the parish --- I am still very interested in collecting old photos of any industry that thrived in the village prior to the World War II and also photos of any building that has since been demolished. If anyone has any such photos and would let me have them for safekeeping until they are eventually put in the Records Office at Ipswich for historians of the future, I should be very grateful --- I have been given a beautiful photo from the production, in the grounds of Finborough Hall, of a Midsummer Night's Dream and I am grateful to the donor.
(Brenda Grimaldi, Local History Recorder)

JOHN HEIGHES: THE PRE-BIKE POPULATION Following last month's piece on the 1871 Census, showing trades of folk living in our village, several people have enquired about SURNAMEN. Obviously, to list all the inhabitants would be much too lengthy, but I can give the numbers of FAMILIES who were then most numerous in Pinborough. If these are multiplied by four the result will be the approximate number of persons of each surname that lived here 100 years ago.

The most common name was ROPER (seven families), next came GRIMWOOD (five families) and jointly in third place we had four families of BAKER, DAVEY and SCARFF. There were three families of CHAPLIN, HARE, RANSOM and TURNER. Other surnames occupying more than one house were BUMPSTEAD, HATTEN, LEWIS, LUSHER, NUNN, PROCTOR, ROSIER, STEGGALL and SQUIRRELL. It is surprising to find so many of these surnames still common in the locality to this day.

An interesting point I read recently about rural communities was that 100 years ago one's marriage partner was found, on average, within 600 yards of one's residence. By the turn of the century, this distance had become 1,500 yards mainly due to the invention of the bicycle!

Before leaving the 1871 Census, for which our Parish Enumerator was Mr. John Purr (Blacksmith), it is interesting to note that the area covered consisted of "the whole of the Parish of Finborough Magna, including the Hall, the Vicarage, The Green, Mudd's Farm, Hatten's Farm, The City, The Park, Levett's Farm, Davis Farm, Brand's Farm, Boyton Hall & the cottages adjacent, and the cottages to Combs boundary".

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE As we come to the end of my first year as President, I feel we have had a successful twelve months with interesting speakers and demonstrations. An outing to Sandringham and to the Potteries at Hadleigh were both much enjoyed. Our entry for the Suffolk Show was a great success in spite of a last minute rush. We provided part of the entertainment for the Spring Group meeting and we held our Harvest Supper in October. In all, a very busy year and we are now looking forward to our 59th Birthday Party and are already making plans to celebrate our Diamond Jubilee next year. We have had several new members this year and would welcome even more. My thanks to all the Committee members for their support during the year. (Marigold Wake, President)

RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION The Stowmarket branch has arranged walks over the Christmas and New Year period as shown below. Non-members are welcome to join in.

Sun 17th Dec	Combs area (morning walk)	Meet at "Live and Let Live" P.H. 10.15 am
Tues 26th Dec	Onehouse/Northfield Wood area (morning walk)	Meet at Stowmarket High School 10.30 am
Sun 7th Jan	Bacton area	Meet Cow Green, Bacton 2.00 pm
Sun 21st Jan	Southolt area	Meet Plough Inn, Southolt 2.00 pm
Sun 4th Feb	Battisford/Barking area (John Heighes)	Needham Market Station, 2.00 pm

LETTER TO EDITOR Dear Sir, May I through the Newsletter offer my sincerest apologies for the slur I brought on the good name of Great Finborough after my recent court appearance. I am very penitent and sorry and I am finding out what it means to live with it, Yours etc., A.J.Seamons, The Cottage, High Road, Gt.Finborough.

ANOTHER CHRISTMAS POEM This time by Christine Roberts, aged 7 years

I am Melchior with gold for the new King.
I followed the big light
Shining gold and bright.
Show me to the little town
Sleeping through the night.
I am walking on my way
To the Lord
Sleeping on the hay.
Star of Bethlehem move on
Until we get to Mary's son.
Move on, move on, to Mary's son.
Guide me on my way
To the little Lord
Sleeping on the hay
A long way away.
At last I am there
And I do stare
As I say my prayer
And see the baby lying there.

MORE FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING A donation of ten pounds was made to the Suffolk Accident Rescue Service ---- the funds raised at the recent beetle drive were given to the Roger Pettward Charity ---- the ownership of two street lights in Church Road is to be transferred to the Council ---- the Area Surveyor is to erect two "Accompanied horses or ponies" signs at the staggered junction of Cagman's Lane and the B1115 to warn motorists of horses and ponies crossing ---- Council discussed the Review of Rights of Way to be undertaken in 1979 ---- the District Council is seeking early possession of the land designated for the proposed Pettward Hall car park.

PARISH MEETING A Parish Meeting to discuss the Parish Review was held on Monday, 13th November in the Pettward Hall. Sixteen people attended of which four were residents of Buxhall. Among the Finborough people there was a majority (of eight votes to two) for retaining the existing boundary.

PARISH CHARITIES The annual gift ceremonies of the Town Estate, William Hatten and Roger Pettward Charities will take place later this month and beneficiaries will be advised in good time.

FROM THE COUNCIL MINUTES (1952) Eastern Electricity was to erect a bus shelter in Church Road ---- Gipping RDC had decided to commemorate the Festival of Britain by establishing in each parish a sign bearing the name of the parish. Further such signs were offered at £5 each and the Council decided to purchase one additional sign. The signs still remain on the original sites at either end of the village alongside the B1115 ---- the Rights of Way Survey was undertaken by individual councillors ---- the Council approved the selection of the name 'Oak Close' for the new Council estate in the parish ---- Mr. J. Cooper of the High Road was appointed as Clerk to the Council.

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The Newsletter is published and distributed free of charge to all houses within the parish by Great Finborough Parish Council.